



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 26, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

RE: Alternate Sediment Control Areas, Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

On August 20, 1999, I visited the Willow Creek Mine with the Division's inspector, Pete Hess, and Johnny Pappas representing Plateau Mining Corporation. Construction of the mine began in 1996, and Mr. Pappas wanted to know whether interim revegetation had progressed to the point that silt fences were no longer needed in certain areas. We felt vegetation is controlling erosion well enough in each area that the silt fences can be removed.

The areas we looked at were the outslope of the propane tank pad, a silt fence on the outside of the topsoil pile berm, and the outslope of an area below the conveyor on the southwest part of the mine site. We saw very little evidence of sediment being retained by these silt fences.

The topsoil pile berm is very well vegetated, and there is minimal erosion. In both other areas, there is a slope leading to a relatively flat area. Vegetation on the slopes appears to be adequately controlling erosion, but even if it didn't, vegetation in the flatter areas would be able to filter runoff from the steeper slopes. For these reasons, we feel the silt fences can be removed without jeopardizing the hydrologic balance.

cc: Pete Hess

Sharon Falvey

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